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Notes: Various Themes: Truth for Tomorrow, 1945

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Truth for Tomorrow.

~~Thomas~~ ^{new} ~~AL~~

+ 432 years have come and gone since the Augustinian more-narrow streets-nailed 95 simple statements concerning God, man, truth, faith - Castle Church - live all great historical events - moments when we can see the hand of God clearly turning the currents of history in a new direction - this did not come suddenly - behind it the long years of corruption and shame in a Church that had forgotten its divine mission - ago of bad faith & bad life - in the life of Martin Luther himself - long hours & days & months - Black Chister - haunted by the words Rom. 1, 17 "There is the righteousness" - strange - child of the Middle Ages - what, in the name of God - indulgences & penances - bootstraps - sounded like a forgotten trumpet - a call from a far country - a surging hope for the imprisoned soul - "the just shall live" - promise of a new life, full free - hammer blows - Castle Church - opened more doors - the doors to God, to heaven, to truth, to mercy & justice - to all the things by which man finds his way -

2. But - as always in the long & bitter story of man, man has devoted the last 400 years to closing these doors, one by one - for the ^{open door} worship of God, the worship of man; for ^{open door} truth, the doctrine of expediency; for sin & grace, the doctrine of the natural goodness of man; for ^{about} right & wrong, relative values - of the present situation - day - 18-19-20.

day trouble
war over

3. And so - as always - God came back & closed the last door into the palace which man had planned for himself - closed it with two events - 1. 7.55 Hawaiian time - Dec. 7, 1941 - worship - 12. Dawn July 16, 1945 - power to destroy himself - and so - middle of 20th Cent.

Martin Com. Nov. 13, 1949.

Truth for Tomorrow.

These two events will go down in history ^{not} ~~was~~ nearly as another, ~~not~~ ^{another} ~~inhibit~~ ^{mark} the ~~end~~ ^{close} of an era in the history of humanity - the era of the deification of man, the worship of things, all the cheap, facile, fearfully wrong ideas which the world ~~has~~ ^{has} been pleased to call modern thought.

~~This is~~ ^{History is a judgment} ~~it~~ ^{God} saying to us: This is the way it works out.

You have believed in the wrong things, you are bound to do the wrong things. In the life of nations ~~as~~ ^{of} individuals, there is only one law. the law of God - if it is broken - there can be only one result - blood.

the law of justice ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~sweet~~ ^{sweet} & pain & tears & death.

4. It is at this hour ^{time of need} that we find ourselves this afternoon looking back 400 years to the man who opened doors for mankind - we are ^{now} in a very special sense a great transition generation - the only living link between what has been and what shall be - a generation that must, under the mercy of God, take the

forgotten truth of yesterday and make it the living truth for tomorrow - ^{open doors} hear much's destiny of the world & of the Church - ^{destiny} no destiny without heritage - for us the heritage of the Reformation - of open doors & of horizon & courage & faith & hope.

heritage,
destiny -

5. ^{little} ^{heart} ~~Many~~ ^{the} things in the heritage of the dignity & worth of the individual human soul - no priest, no Church - a man could stand up before God - alone - see what the years have done to us - the rights of the State - the problem of society - organized thinking - ^{machines} ~~every~~ ^{every} thing but the ultimate truth - strip life down - there is the individual human soul whose problem our concern - spirit, last, always.

abolition

TEXT

THEME

OCCASION

~~an answer which
the world must
have again - if
it is to live.~~

The Union 2004

6. And then this is Martin Luther's answer - almost forgotten now in these years of pain & ~~depression~~ ^{dependence} - beggar before God - now, humanly speaking, two kinds of beggars - those who became beggars through no fault of their own - crushed by society - victims of time & circumstance - but before God there is only one kind of beggar - his spiritual rags and ^{his} moral tatters are his own ^{doing} ~~fault~~ - by his fallen nature he prefers the gutter to the altar - there is no way out for him under heaven - he is a beggar by choice -
7. And it is just the utter, ~~hand~~ ^{heart} simplicity of this answer to the question "What is man?" which makes it so difficult for the modern ^{man} to accept it - it hits him where he lives - squaring into his pride - he, who now spans the ocean in hours - whose books fill the libraries of the world - who knows the secret of the atom and can measure the stars - he should be a beggar? no, despite the darkness of his years he still prefers the voice of Herbert Spencer "the ultimate development of the ideal man is logically certain" - evil and immorality will disappear - man must become perfect - someday, somehow, someday we shall be able to rid ourselves of the hidden volcano beneath the rich velvet surface of our civilization - we shall continue to be the masters of our destiny, the captives of our unhappy souls -
8. This is the great modern heresy - and business M.L., standing in the dawn of the modern age, ~~knows~~ ^{saw} that - it really is nothing new - M.L. knew, as few men in the history of the Western world have known, that man was & is a beggar because he is under the poverty and pain, the guilt, the power of sin - (hundreds of years earlier - Huselmin) - we shall never understand man or history or the ¹⁵⁰ ~~future~~ ^{present} of our own years - until that word ^{sin} "clear, sharp, honest, becomes a part of our life and thought" - contemporary culture must be confronted with the fact of sin - modern man must

1. Great privilege - anniversary of pastors - but esp. this particular one - personal regard & admiration - his honesty, his courage, his devotion to his people - two statements: "I have the finest people in the world." "He is a great pastor - a shepherd" -
2. 1905-1945: over years since there in the history of humanity. greater distance between 1905-1945 than 1905-1805 1705 - a different world - 1905 new century had just dawned - greatest century -
3. That was the world of the headlines - not the real world, not the world of God. partial picture - all that time something else - God working through our honored pastor - children baptized - young men & women met of life together - trust God's laid to rest - the constant traffic between earth & heaven. the healing, saving presence of X - the shadow of the Cross - and this is what counts - ^{in the world beyond death} - this is really & eternally important - this is the ultimate purpose of life & history - this is the only reason the world still stands - where the last preacher gets through with his last task - that's the end - there is nothing beyond that.
4. So a great occasion - gratitude to God - opportunity for us to say a word of appreciation to Schleier - but more than that an opportunity to examine again the great ending to which he has given his life. to reaffirm our conviction that it is the most important work on this side of eternity - to see again its essence, its transcendent power, its continuing glory.

Thra pp. 175-177! Red Note Book